



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 7, 1997

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *aa*

RE: Site Inspection, International Uranium (USA) Corp. ["IUC"], Rim Columbus Mine, M/037/006, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: June 5, 1997
Time of Inspection: 1305 - 1730
Conditions: Partly cloudy, warm
Participants: Roger Smith, Jim Fisher - IUC; Ted McDougall, Monticello BLM; Tony Gallegos, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To evaluate a conceptual amendment for this mine site.

Prior to the inspection, a brief meeting was held at the Monticello BLM office. Issues discussed at this meeting were the application of the new BLM bonding regulations to this conceptual amendment being evaluated by IUC. In addition, some maps were looked at to get a general understanding of the amendment proposal. A Division map titled "Disturbed Surface Area, Rim-Columbus" was used to sketch proposed features at the existing mine site. A photocopy of the pertinent section of this map is attached. The proposal is to utilize portions of the existing disturbed area. After this meeting we drove to the site.

We first visited the Humbug portal area. The access road leading off the mesa down to the portal is severely rutted in several sections. Roger indicated they would need to do some minor maintenance work on these road sections such as filling in the rutted areas or bladeing out some sections of the road. As long as this maintenance is within the existing road disturbance there would be no net increase in disturbed area and new reclamation responsibilities would be avoided.

At the Humbug site we first visited the proposed waste area. This area is characterized as a depression or as a man made excavation. The amendment would include placement of mine waste within this excavation. Prior to placing any mine waste, soils from the area would be salvaged and pushed out to the edges to create a berm. This stockpiled soil would be used in final reclamation of the waste or any other areas that were affected by this amendment. One key point of this amendment is that the original mine plan did not include reclamation of the entire dump area. The original plan described minor utilization of the portal as an escapeway, or for ventilation purposes. This amendment would include actively using the portal for the removal of waste and ore. Roger was concerned that by



utilizing small portions of the waste dump or mine area, they would be responsible for reclaiming the entire existing disturbed area. As clarification, both BLM and Division rules would require those areas which were reimpacted be reclaimed, not the entire mine disturbance. With that clarification we proceeded to look at the areas which are currently being proposed to be reimpacted.

At the proposed waste area there are several minor drainages coming down into the disturbed area. The amendment would include constructing a diversion ditch around the perimeter of the waste area to divert these drainages into the natural drainage channel off to the side of the waste area. It is anticipated that the waste area would hold anywhere from 25,000 - 30,000 tons of waste. The waste area and the construction of the diversion ditch are the only planned disturbances to reimpact this part of the existing mine site. At the time of this inspection there was a compressor tank at this end of the site. A power pole is also present at this end of the site.

The next area examined was the proposed ore pad. The portions of the existing mine disturbance which were proposed to be reimpacted had been flagged. The plan for the ore pad area is to push the thin veneer of soil to the north off the underlying rock. This stockpiled soil would be used in reclamation. The idea is to use the minimal amount of area needed for the ore stockpile. The proposed ore stockpile area was used as an ore stockpile by the old operations. The underlying rock in this area is fairly level and provides a good surface for ore storage that would minimize dilution or soil contamination.

Another area currently disturbed by the old mine which would be reimpacted is a short loop road from the portal area to the ore pad and waste area. This road would be one lane wide and would wrap up from the portal over the existing dump to the ore and waste areas. The current estimate of the amendment areas is: ore pad - 200 feet by 50 feet; waste area - an oval 125 feet in diameter; diversion ditch - 200 feet long.

The other area to be used in this amendment would be the portal. The portal is a decline at the end of a trench. The amendment would include placing some of the mine waste back into this portal trench after the mine opening was sealed. This part of the amendment would actually provide improved reclamation of the mine portal area than was originally planned in the existing mine plan.

We left the Humbug Portal and drove to the facilities and shaft area on the plateau. On the way up the access road, we experienced some of the erosional problems due to lack of road maintenance. It took us a while to get back up the hill due to these major ruts.

Under this amendment the shaft would be used for a secondary escapeway only. No ore or waste would be hauled through this shaft. At the facilities and shaft area there is a fan housing in place that would be used to ventilate the underground workings. The amendment would include utilizing the existing buildings, water well, and treatment facilities for the mine water. The buildings would be used for change house and maintenance purposes. The water well and power lines would be

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used for onsite living quarters. Roger mentioned their work schedule may be four ten-hour days and then take three days off.

Before leaving the site we looked at old reclamation estimates and information describing the permit area from Division field files. The current reclamation contract for the site described the affected area or disturbed area as 13 acres. The permit transfer described the permit area as 17 acres. The Division will need to review the files to see if the bond covered 17 acres or 13 acres.

In conclusion, the Division was to write up an inspection memo, and IUC was to submit a permit amendment to the Division and send a copy to the BLM. Although this site is on BLM lands, the Division appears to have more of the information from the initial mine permit for this site. The initial mine permit application may have been submitted prior to the effective date of the BLM regulations.

jb
Attachment: photocopy of map portion
cc: Roger Smith, IUC
Ted McDougall, BLM
M037006.ins

HUMBURG
CLAIM
(ATLAS
MINERALS)

PROPOSED LOCATIONS
- NOT TO SCALE -

ORE
STOCKPILE
AREA

WASTE
AREA

Humburg Port

DRAINAGE

USED AT INSPECTION 6/5/97

DISTURBED SURFACE AREA
RIM-COLUMBUS
SCALE 1" = 100'
DATE 9-7-76

M/037/006

TAKEN
FROM

